

Airland programs and provisions contained in the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPETITION, FOREIGN
COMMERCE, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Competition, Foreign Commerce, and Infrastructure be authorized to meet on Tuesday, May 4, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. on Lessons Learned From Security at Past Olympic Games.

COMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 4, 2004, at 3:30 p.m., in closed session to mark up the Seapower programs and provisions contained in the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 4, 2004, at 5 p.m., in closed session to mark up the Emerging Threats and Capabilities programs and provisions contained in the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sara Hagigh of Senator LIEBERMAN's office be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the JOBS bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the request of the Senator from Montana is granted.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, after consultation with the members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Aging, pursuant to Public Law 100-175, as amended by Public Laws 102-375, 103-171, and 106-501, appoints the following individuals as members of the Policy Committee to the White House Conference on Aging: The Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY and the Senator from Idaho, Mr. CRAIG.

AUTHORIZING PRODUCTION OF
RECORDS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 350.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 350) to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs has received requests from various law enforcement and regulatory officials and agencies for assistance in connection with pending investigations into the credit counseling industry, which has been the subject of recent investigation by the subcommittee.

The resolution would authorize the chairman and ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide investigative records obtained by the subcommittee in the course of its investigation in response to these requests.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 350) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 350

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs has been conducting an investigation into the credit counseling industry;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a number of requests from law enforcement and regulatory officials and agencies for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement and regulatory entities and officials records of the Subcommittee's investigation into the credit counseling industry.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER
SCHOOLS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 351, which was submitted earlier today by Senator GREGG.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 351) congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today my colleagues, Senators LIEBERMAN, FRIST, CARPER, DOLE, SUNUNU, ALEXANDER, DOMENICI, CRAIG, COLEMAN, LANDRIEU, DURBIN, DEWINE, and BROWNBACK joined me in submitting S. Res. 351, a resolution to designate the week of May 3 through May 7, 2004 as National Charter Schools Week. This year marks the 12th anniversary of the opening of the Nation's first charter school in Minnesota. We have come a long way since that auspicious moment when one teacher, collaborating with parents, started a public school specifically designed to meet the needs of the students in the community.

Today, we have almost 3,000 charter schools serving nearly 750,000 students in 37 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Charter schools are immensely popular. Forty percent report having waiting lists, and there are enough students on these waiting lists to fill another 1,000 average-sized charter schools. Survey after survey shows parents are overwhelmingly satisfied with their children's charter schools.

Charter schools are popular for a variety of reasons. They are generally free from the burdensome regulations and policies that govern traditional public schools. They are founded and run by principals, teachers, and parents who share a common vision of education, a vision which guides each and every decision made at the schools, from hiring personnel to selecting curricula. Furthermore, charter schools are held accountable for student performance in a very unique way—if they fail to educate their students well and meet the goals of their charters, they are shut down.

Since each charter school represents the unique vision of its founders, these schools vary greatly, but all strive for excellence.

For example, Summit Middle School in Boulder, CO is a charter school serving grades 6 through 8 in mixed-age classes grouped by interest, motivation, ability, developmental level, and mastery of previous material. Summit provides a choice at the middle school level for students interested in a more rigorous and individualized academic program, and its students—admitted without regard to past academic accomplishment or prior testing—have risen to the challenge. In 2003, Summit was one of 214 public and private elementary and secondary schools nationwide, and the only public middle school